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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
Colombia

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SOURCE

1. In mid-March 1955, I visited Colombia and observed that there appeared to be considerable political unrest prevalent. In discussions concerning this held with the brother of the Managing Editor of El Tiempo, the largest newspaper in Colombia, and also from discussions with influential Colombian nationals, I learned that Colombian newspapers were having difficulties with the government; that this was because of criticisms in the newspapers of some of the government's military expenditures. One of the controversial issues is a military city which is necessitating much expensive construction. These expenditures by the government were being criticized by the newspapers and have created quite a "hassel" between them. Although the newspapers in the past have opposed some government issues, this latter issue has apparently precipitated action on the part of the government to the extent that the government is to issue a newspaper and intends to undersell the commercial newspapers. The brother of El Tiempo's Managing Editor believes that advertisers will be forced to use the government newspaper mainly because it is government sponsored -- this will be to the detriment of the commercial papers.
2. From some of my discussions in Colombia, I got the impression that the military group is pushing military expenditures and is also pushing the establishment of a government newspaper; that because President Gustavo Rojas Pinilla is losing ground politically they are also pushing him into going further in political matters than he wants to go; that influential Colombians in general are afraid that their President will not be able to control this strong military group and that the point will soon be reached where this group will demand that the President turn the presidency over to one of them.

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